

Remarks

The Office Action mailed December 7, 2005 has been carefully reviewed and the following remarks have been made in consequence thereof.

Claims 1-40 are pending in this application. Claims 1-40 stand rejected.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a), a two-month extension of time is submitted herewith to extend the due date of the response to the Office Action dated December 7, 2005, for the above-identified patent application from March 7, 2006, through and including May 7, 2006. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.17(a)(3), authorization to charge a deposit account in the amount of \$450.00 to cover this extension of time request also is submitted herewith.

The rejection of Claims 24-73 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Ryan et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0055669) ("Ryan") is respectfully traversed.

Applicant respectfully submits that Ryan does not describe or suggest the claimed invention. As discussed below, at least one of the differences between the present invention and Ryan is that Ryan does not describe or suggest a method for managing, storing, and disseminating compliance assurance (CA) information that includes *displaying on a client system a compliance calendar option, an audit tracking option, and audit tool option, wherein the compliance calendar option causes to be displayed on the client system CA tasks to be performed and corresponding CA deadlines for a selected location, wherein the audit tracking option prompts the user to input audit information for a selected location, and wherein the audit tool option prompts the user to select at least one audit checklist from the plurality of audit checklists stored within the database.* (Emphasis added.)

Moreover, Ryan does not describe or suggest *notifying users electronically of CA tasks to be performed at a selected location and corresponding CA deadlines, and tracking the CA tasks to be performed at the selected location and the corresponding CA deadlines to ensure compliance.* (Emphasis added.)

Ryan describes a method, system and software for handling compliance information. An intermediary identifies information relevant to a regulated site, and supplies customized forms, reports, etc., to both industry users and regulatory/compliance agencies to facilitate the entry and receipt of compliance data. The intermediary receives compliance data from a particular industry user then validates and delivers that information to as many regulatory agencies as required, with the information provided to each agency being in a format prescribed by that agency. The intermediary then receives a response from the agencies and delivers the response, or a notification of the response, to the industry user, thereby facilitating the exchange of information, forms, and reports between industry and compliance agencies.

Claim 1 a method for managing, storing, and disseminating compliance assurance (CA) information using a web-based system including a server system coupled to a centralized interactive database and at least one client system, the method includes “receiving CA information at the server from a client system...storing CA information and a plurality of audit checklists within the centralized database...cross-referencing CA information...updating the centralized database periodically to maintain CA information...displaying on a client system a compliance calendar option, an audit tracking option, and audit tool option, wherein the compliance calendar option causes to be displayed on the client system CA tasks to be performed and corresponding CA deadlines for a selected location, wherein the audit tracking option prompts the user to input audit information for a selected location, and wherein the audit tool option prompts the user to select at least one audit checklist from the plurality of audit checklists stored within the database...processing at the server an inquiry submitted by the user including a selection of one of the options displayed on the client system...providing CA information in response to the inquiry...notifying users electronically of CA tasks to be performed at a selected location and corresponding CA deadlines...and tracking the CA tasks to be performed at the selected location and the corresponding CA deadlines to ensure compliance.”

Ryan does not describe or suggest a method for managing, storing, and disseminating compliance assurance (CA) information as recited in Claim 1. More specifically, Ryan does not describe or suggest a method for managing, storing, and disseminating compliance assurance (CA) information that includes *displaying on a client system a compliance calendar option, an*

audit tracking option, and audit tool option, wherein the compliance calendar option causes to be displayed on the client system CA tasks to be performed and corresponding CA deadlines for a selected location, wherein the audit tracking option prompts the user to input audit information for a selected location, and wherein the audit tool option prompts the user to select at least one audit checklist from the plurality of audit checklists stored within the database. (Emphasis added.)

Moreover, Ryan does not describe or suggest *notifying users electronically of CA tasks to be performed at a selected location and corresponding CA deadlines, and tracking the CA tasks to be performed at the selected location and the corresponding CA deadlines to ensure compliance.* (Emphasis added.)

Rather, Ryan describes a method for handling compliance information wherein an intermediary identifies information relevant to a regulated site, and supplies customized forms, reports, etc., to both industry users and regulatory/compliance agencies to facilitate the entry and receipt of compliance data. The intermediary receives compliance data from a particular industry user then validates and delivers that information to as many regulatory agencies as required, with the information provided to each agency being in a format prescribed by that agency. The intermediary then receives a response from the agencies and delivers the response, or a notification of the response, to the industry user, thereby facilitating the exchange of information, forms, and reports between industry and compliance agencies.

Notably, Ryan does not describe or suggest displaying a compliance calendar option, an audit tracking option, and audit tool option, wherein the compliance calendar option causes to be displayed on the client system CA tasks to be performed and corresponding CA deadlines for a selected location, wherein the audit tracking option prompts the user to input audit information for a selected location, and wherein the audit tool option prompts the user to select at least one audit checklist from the plurality of audit checklists stored within the database.

Additionally, Ryan does not describe or suggest notifying users electronically of CA tasks to be performed at a selected location and corresponding CA deadlines, and tracking the CA tasks to be performed at the selected location and the corresponding CA deadlines to ensure

compliance. In fact, Ryan makes no mention of tracking tasks to be performed and corresponding deadlines. Accordingly, for at least these reasons, Claim 1 is patentable over Ryan.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully requests that the 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) rejection of Claim 1 be withdrawn.

Claims 2-10 depend from independent Claim 2 which is submitted to be in condition for allowance. When the recitations of Claims 2-10 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicant submits that dependent Claims 2-10 are also patentable over Ryan.

Claim 11 recites a method for managing, storing, and disseminating compliance assurance (CA) information using a web-based system including a server system coupled to a centralized interactive database, at least one managerial user system, and at least one client system, the method includes “receiving CA information at the server from a client system, said CA information comprising site information including environmental information, health and safety information, legal information, corporate compliance information, and contacts information...storing CA information and a plurality of audit checklists within the centralized database...cross-referencing CA information...updating the centralized database periodically to maintain CA information...displaying on a client system a compliance calendar option, an audit tracking option, and audit tool option, wherein the compliance calendar option causes to be displayed on the client system CA tasks to be performed and corresponding CA deadlines for a selected location, wherein the audit tracking option prompts the user to input audit information for a selected location, and wherein the audit tool option prompts the user to select at least one audit checklist from the plurality of audit checklists stored within the database...processing at the server an inquiry submitted by the user including a selection of one of the options displayed on the client system...providing CA information in response to the inquiry...notifying users electronically of CA tasks to be performed at a selected location and corresponding CA deadlines...tracking the CA tasks to be performed at the selected location and the corresponding CA deadlines to ensure compliance...and providing an electronic report of the CA tasks to be performed and the CA deadlines to the managerial user system.”

Claim 11, as herein amended, recites a method for managing, storing, and disseminating compliance assurance (CA) information that includes steps essentially similar to those recited in Claim 1. Thus, it is submitted that Claim 11 is patentable over Ryan for reasons that correspond to those given with respect to Claim 1.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 11 is submitted to be patentable over Ryan.

Claims 12-15 depend from independent Claim 11 which is submitted to be in condition for allowance. When the recitations of Claims 12-15 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 11, Applicant submits that dependent Claims 12-15 are also patentable over Ryan.

Claim 16 recites a method for manipulating CA information using a web-based system including a server system coupled to a centralized interactive database and at least one client system, the method includes "receiving CA information at the server comprising business information, organizational information, site information, assigned contact person information, COE/department information, building information, CA audit tracking information, CA task information, CA calendar information, CA task reminder information, frequency of reminder information, environmental information, health and safety information, quality information, legal information, human resources information, management information, and corporate compliance information...storing CA information and a plurality of audit checklists within the centralized database...updating the centralized database with CA information comprising adding and deleting information so as to revise existing CA information including at least one of CA task information, CA calendar information, and CA audit tracking information...displaying on a client system a compliance calendar option, an audit tracking option, and audit tool option, wherein the compliance calendar option causes to be displayed on the client system CA tasks to be performed and corresponding CA deadlines for a selected location, wherein the audit tracking option prompts the user to input audit information for a selected location, and wherein the audit tool option prompts the user to select at least one audit checklist from the plurality of audit checklists stored within the database...processing at the server an inquiry submitted by the user including a selection of one of the options displayed on the client system...providing CA information in response to the inquiry comprising business information, organizational

information, site information, assigned contact person information, COE/department information, building information, CA audit tracking information, CA task information, CA calendar information, CA task reminder information, frequency of reminder information, environmental information, health and safety information, quality information, legal information, human resources information, management information, and corporate compliance information, in response to an inquiry, including downloading requested information from the server system and displaying requested information on the client system, the inquiry including utilizing at least one pull-down lists, check boxes, and hypertext links...and notifying users of CA tasks to be performed at the selected location and the corresponding CA deadlines comprising transmitting an electronic message to the client system from the server system notifying the user of a CA task to be performed."

Claim 16, as herein amended, recites a method for managing, storing, and disseminating compliance assurance (CA) information that includes steps essentially similar to those recited in Claim 1. Thus, it is submitted that Claim 16 is patentable over Ryan for reasons that correspond to those given with respect to Claim 1.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 16 is submitted to be patentable over Ryan.

Claim 17 recites a network based system for managing, storing, and disseminating CA information, the system including a client system, a centralized database for storing information, a server system configured to be coupled to the client system and the database, the server system further configured to "receive CA information from the client system...store CA information into and a plurality of audit checklists within the centralized database...cross-reference CA information...update the centralized database periodically to maintain CA information...display on the client system a compliance calendar option, an audit tracking option, and audit tool option, wherein the compliance calendar option causes to be displayed on the client system CA tasks to be performed and corresponding CA deadlines for a selected location, wherein the audit tracking option prompts the user to input audit information for a selected location, and wherein the audit tool option prompts the user to select at least one audit checklist from the plurality of audit checklists stored within the database...process an inquiry submitted by the user including a selection of one of the options displayed on the client system...provide CA information in

response to the inquiry...notify users electronically of CA tasks to be performed at a selected location and corresponding CA deadlines...and tracking the CA tasks to be performed at the selected location and the corresponding CA deadlines to ensure compliance.”

Claim 17, as herein amended, recites a network based system for managing, storing, and disseminating CA information that includes, among other things, a server configured to perform steps essentially similar to those recited in Claim 1. Thus, it is submitted that Claim 17 is patentable over Ryan for reasons that correspond to those given with respect to Claim 1.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 17 is submitted to be patentable over Ryan.

Claims 18-26 depend from independent Claim 17 which is submitted to be in condition for allowance. When the recitations of Claims 18-26 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 17, Applicant submits that dependent Claims 18-26 are also patentable over Ryan.

Claim 27 recites a network based system for managing, storing, and disseminating CA information, the system includes a client system, a managerial user system, a centralized database for storing information, a server system configured to be coupled to the client system, the managerial user system, and the database, wherein the server system is further configured to “receive CA information from the client system, said CA information comprising site information including environmental information, health and safety information, legal information, corporate compliance information, and contact information...store CA information and a plurality of audit checklists within the centralized database...cross-reference CA information...update the centralized database periodically to maintain CA information...display on the client system a compliance calendar option, an audit tracking option, and audit tool option, wherein the compliance calendar option causes to be displayed on the client system CA tasks to be performed and corresponding CA deadlines for a selected location, wherein the audit tracking option prompts the user to input audit information for a selected location, and wherein the audit tool option prompts the user to select at least one audit checklist from the plurality of audit checklists stored within the database...process an inquiry submitted by the user including a selection of one of the options displayed on the client system...provide CA information in

response to the inquiry...notify users electronically of CA tasks to be performed at a selected location and corresponding CA deadlines...track the CA tasks to be performed at the selected location and the corresponding CA deadlines to ensure compliance...and provide an electronic report of the CA tasks to be performed and the CA deadlines to the managerial user system.”

Claim 27, as herein amended, recites a network based system for managing, storing, and disseminating CA information that includes, among other things, a server configured to perform steps essentially similar to those recited in Claim 1. Thus, it is submitted that Claim 27 is patentable over Ryan for reasons that correspond to those given with respect to Claim 1.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 27 is submitted to be patentable over Ryan.

Claims 28-32 depend from independent Claim 27 which is submitted to be in condition for allowance. When the recitations of Claims 28-32 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 27, Applicant submits that dependent Claims 28-32 are also patentable over Ryan.

Claim 33 recites a computer program embodied on a computer readable medium for managing, storing, and disseminating CA information, the program comprising a code segment that receives CA information and then “maintains a database by adding, deleting and updating CA information...displays on a client system a compliance calendar option, an audit tracking option, and audit tool option, wherein the compliance calendar option causes to be displayed on the client system CA tasks to be performed and corresponding CA deadlines for a selected location, wherein the audit tracking option prompts the user to input audit information for a selected location, and wherein the audit tool option prompts the user to select at least one audit checklist from the plurality of audit checklists stored within the database...processes an inquiry submitted by the user including a selection of one of the options displayed on the client system...provides CA information in response to the inquiry...notifies users of CA tasks to be performed at a selected location and corresponding CA deadlines...tracks the CA tasks to be performed at the selected location and the corresponding CA deadlines to ensure compliance...and provides a report of said CA tasks to be performed and said CA deadlines.”

Claim 33, as herein amended, recites a computer program comprising a code segment that is programmed to perform steps essentially similar to those recited in Claim 1. Thus, it is submitted that Claim 33 is patentable over Ryan for reasons that correspond to those given with respect to Claim 1.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 33 is submitted to be patentable over Ryan.

Claims 34-40 depend from independent Claim 33 which is submitted to be in condition for allowance. When the recitations of Claims 34-40 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 33, Applicant submits that dependent Claims 34-40 are also patentable over Ryan.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully requests that the Section 102 rejection of Claims 1-40 be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing remarks, all the Claims now active in the application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



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